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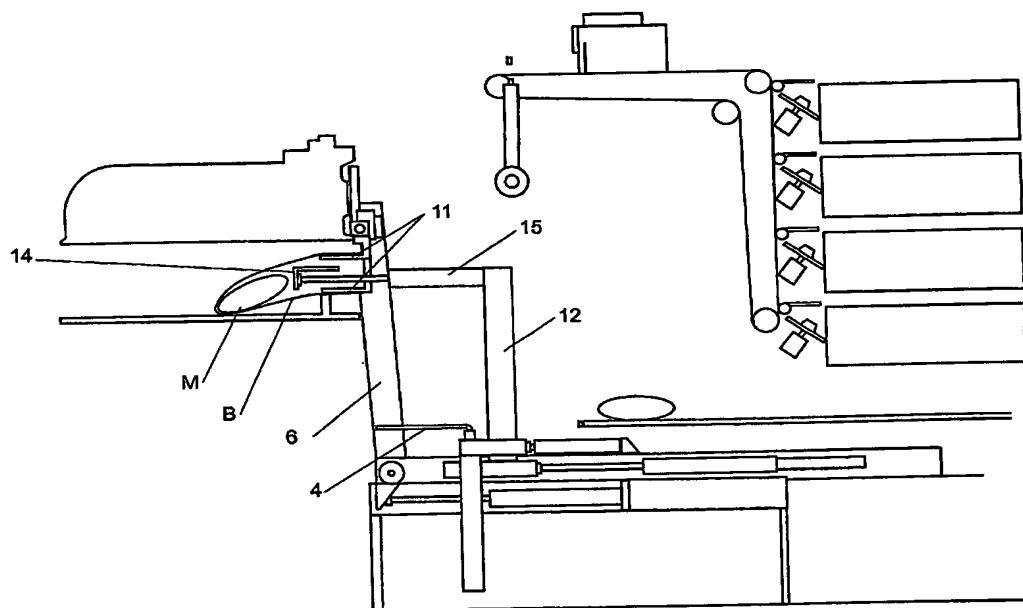
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(54) Title: VACUUM PACKAGING MACHINE AND LOADING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: Apparatus for vacuum packing products includes a vacuum packaging machine, an upstream product information acquisition stage arranged to acquire information relating to one or more characteristics of products on a product packing line, and a pack opener arranged to open the mouth of each pack to a controlled extent based on information relating to products being packed acquired at the upstream product information acquisition stage, and to present the pack so that the products are delivered into the open packs which are then delivered into the vacuum packaging machine, or deliver the products into the open packs which are already at least partially entered into the vacuum packaging machine.



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